

QUARTERS AT LANGLEY FIELD, VA., FOR CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF
NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS.

JANUARY 25, 1921.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of
the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. KAHN, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the
following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3516.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill
(S. 3516) to authorize the Secretary of War, in his discretion, to
furnish quarters at Langley Field, Va., to the civilian employees of
the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, and for other
purposes, having considered the same, report thereon with a recom-
mendation that it do pass, with the following amendment:

Page 1, line 5, after the word "Virginia," insert the following:
"until the end of the fiscal year 1922."

This bill was recommended for passage in the following letter from
the Acting Secretary of War:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, December 8, 1919.

To the CHAIRMAN,
Committee on Military Affairs, House of Representatives.

SIR: I have the honor to submit, with the request that it be introduced in Congress,
the following bill:

"A BILL To authorize the Secretary of War, in his discretion, to furnish quarters at Langley Field, Va.,
to the civilian employees of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, and for other purposes."

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America,
in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be, and he hereby is, authorized, in
his discretion, to furnish living quarters at Langley Field, Va., to the civilian em-
ployees of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, to supply them with
heat, fuel, and light for such quarters at the actual cost thereof to the Government,
and to extend to them the privilege of purchasing subsistence stores and commissarial
supplies at cost plus 10 per cent."

I desire to inform you that the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics is
conducting its research and experimental work in aeronautics on a plot of ground
set aside for its use at Langley Field, Va. It is not contemplated that the committee
will operate permanently at that field, but that legislation will be sought which

will enable the committee to move to a field in the District of Columbia more suitable for its purposes, and at the same time permit of the exclusive use of Langley Field for military aeronautics, for which purpose it is needed. It is estimated, however, that two years will elapse before such legislation can be enacted and a new field prepared. In the meantime it is necessary, in order that the committee be aided as much as possible in its labors, that quarters, etc., be furnished the committee's civilian employees at Langley Field, and the foregoing bill has been prepared at the instance of the committee and the Director of Air Service, who are working in complete harmony.

I earnestly recommend its speedy enactment.

Respectfully,

BENEDICT CROWELL,
Acting Secretary of War.

Upon the request of the Acting Secretary of War the chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs introduced the bill referred to in the foregoing letter on January 16, 1920, in the House of Representatives. It is known as H. R. 11814 and is similar to S. 3516, which has passed the Senate.

In addition to the letter of the Acting Secretary of War there is submitted herewith the following letter from the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics which is as follows:

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS,
Washington, D. C., April 19, 1920.

Hon. JULIUS KAHN,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. KAHN: Reference is made to Senate bill No. 3516 "to authorize the Secretary of War, in his discretion, to furnish quarters at Langley Field, Va., to the civilian employees of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, and for other purposes," which passed the Senate April 5, 1920.

I beg to submit for your consideration the following statement of the need for this legislation:

By authority of law the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics erected laboratories for scientific research in aeronautics at Langley Field, Va., on a plot of ground set aside for its use by the War Department.

It is necessary to provide quarters on the field for members of our engineering staff, as they are invariably people drawn from other localities, and it is impossible for them to rent quarters in Hampton, the nearest town, or in the vicinity of the field. The privileges covered by this bill are intended to apply only to the members of the committee's engineering staff, the mechanical force being for the most part residents of Hampton or vicinity. Hampton is 4 miles from the field and it is 20 minutes' walk from the committee's station on the field to the car line. There is no commercial grocery store on or near the field, but there is an Army commissary store. To require the committee's employees to purchase all their food at Hampton would be a hardship, serving no useful purpose and bringing about discontent with its attendant loss of efficiency and probably resignation from the service.

We find men qualified for aeronautical research at best very difficult to obtain for duty at Langley Field, and it is necessary, in the interests of good administration and efficiency, to permit these men to live on the field and to purchase their food at the Army commissary store on the field.

In conclusion, I would say that the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and the Air Service of the Army are working in harmony at Langley Field, and that this proposed legislation not only has the approval of the Air Service, but was, in fact, recommended to Congress by the Secretary of War.

I trust that this bill may have your support in the House, and that you will do what you can to secure its enactment during the present session.

Sincerely, yours,

CHARLES D. WALCOTT, *Chairman.*

Your committee recommends that H. R. 11814 be laid on the table.